

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 140430Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1641
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9604

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CCPCC MILITARY COMMISSION MEETING

REF: HONG KONG 8150 (1975)

1. THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ORDERS OF THE CCPCC MILITARY COMMISSION (MC) AND THE STATE COUNCIL CONFERRING THE TITLE OF "HEROIC MILITIA BATTALION COMMANDER" ON WANG HSI-AN SUGGESTS THAT A MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMISSION WAS RECENTLY HELD OR MAY BE IN SESSION. AN AUGUST 13 NCNA ANNOUNCEMENT REVEALED THAT HONAN MILITARY AND PROVINCIAL LEADERS, INCLUDING WUHAN MILITARY REGION POLITICAL COMMISSAR AND HONAN CCP FIRST SECRETARY LI FOR HEROIC DEEDS IN FIGHTING A FLOOD THAT STRUCK THE HONAN AREA LAST SUMMER.

2. IN A SIMILAR FASHION, THE FIRST INDICATION OF LAST SUMMER'S ENLARGED MILITARY COMMISSION MEETING OCCURED WITH THE BODY HONORING A PLA SOLDIER AND A PLA UNIT (REFTEL). SUBSEQUENTLY
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REPORTS REVEALED THAT AN ENLARGED MC MEETING, CHAIRED BY TENG

AND YEH CHIEN-YING WAS HELD IN JULY TO FORMULATE FINAL PLANS FOR ISSUING CENTRAL DOCUMENT 18 WHICH CALLED FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE ARMY. IN CONTRAST, THIS YEAR'S AWARD WAS CONFERRED JOINTLY BY THE MC AND THE STATE COUNCIL SUGGESTING THAT AN EVEN LARGER MEETING WAS CALLED TO DISCUSS MILITARY MATTER AND MORE RECENTLY, TO DEAL WITH EARTHQUAKE RELIEF.

3. IF A MEETING WAS HELD RECENTLY, PRC MILITARY LEADERS MOST LIKELY DISCUSSED TENG'S CONTROVERSIAL ROLE IN MILITARY MODERNIZATION--A TOPIC THAT IS GAINING INCREASING ATTENTION IN THE PRC MEDIA. THE AUGUST ISSUE OF RED FLAG, FOR INSTANCE CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY SHEN PING ON MILITARY MATTERS (TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE HERE). RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLES AND PROVINCIAL BROADCASTS HAVE ATTACKED TENG FOR STRESSING "WEAPONS OVER MEN" AND FOR "RECTIFICATION", THAT IS, TENG'S ATTEMPTS LAST YEAR TO REMOVE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS AND TO PLACE HIS SUPPORTERS IN KEY MILITARY POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY AT THE MILITARY DISTRICT LEVEL. AS THE ARGUMENT GOES, "RECTIFICATION" IN ITSELF IS NOT BAD" IT WAS CORRECTLY USED TO REMOVE THE PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF TENG TEH-HUAI AND LIN PAIO IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, TENG USED "RECTIFICATION" TO TURN THE "PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONARY ARMY INTO A TOOL OF THE BOURGEOISIE". THUS, IMPLICIT IN THE ARGUMENT AGAINST TENG IS THE NEED TO UNDO HIS RESHUFFLING OF KEY MILITARY LEADERS IN THE PROVINCES AND A MEETING MAY INDICATE THE SHIFT OF OR REMOVAL OF TENG-SUPPORTERS IS BEING DEBATED. WE SUSPECT FURTHER REFINEMENTS OF THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST TENG WILL APPEAR IN UPCOMING WEEKS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MILITARY DECORATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK09604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-1179
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760853/aaaabtzc.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HONG KONG 8150
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE CCPCC MILITARY COMMISSION MEETING
TAGS: PINT, MILI, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006